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Docket No. 2629-4017

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Applicant(s): James ANTHONY et al.

Group Art Unit: 1656

Serial No.: 09/954,839

Examiner: Chunduru, S.

Filed: June 15, 2000

For: DETECTION OF NUCLEIC ACIDS BY TYPE-SPECIFIC HYBRID CAPTURE METHOD

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application in response to the Official Action of April 10, 2002 as follows:

#### IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

- C1
40. (twice amended) A method of detecting a target nucleic acid comprising:
- a) hybridizing a single stranded target nucleic acid to a capture sequence probe and a signal sequence probe, wherein the capture sequence probe and the signal sequence probe hybridize to non-overlapping regions within the target nucleic acid and do not hybridize to non-overlapping regions within the target nucleic acid and do not hybridize to each other, wherein the signal sequence probe is unlabeled and comprises a DNA-RNA hybrid region, wherein said hybridization forms a complex; and
  - b) detecting said complex.
- C2
48. (amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the signal sequence probe comprises a DNA-RNA duplex and a single stranded nucleic acid sequence which hybridizes to the target nucleic acid.

#### REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration in view of the herewith presented amendments and remarks.